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1994



**WELCOME TO**

**C A S S**

**CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTER**

**OZARK, ARKANSAS**



**OPERATED BY**

**OZARK-ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FOREST**

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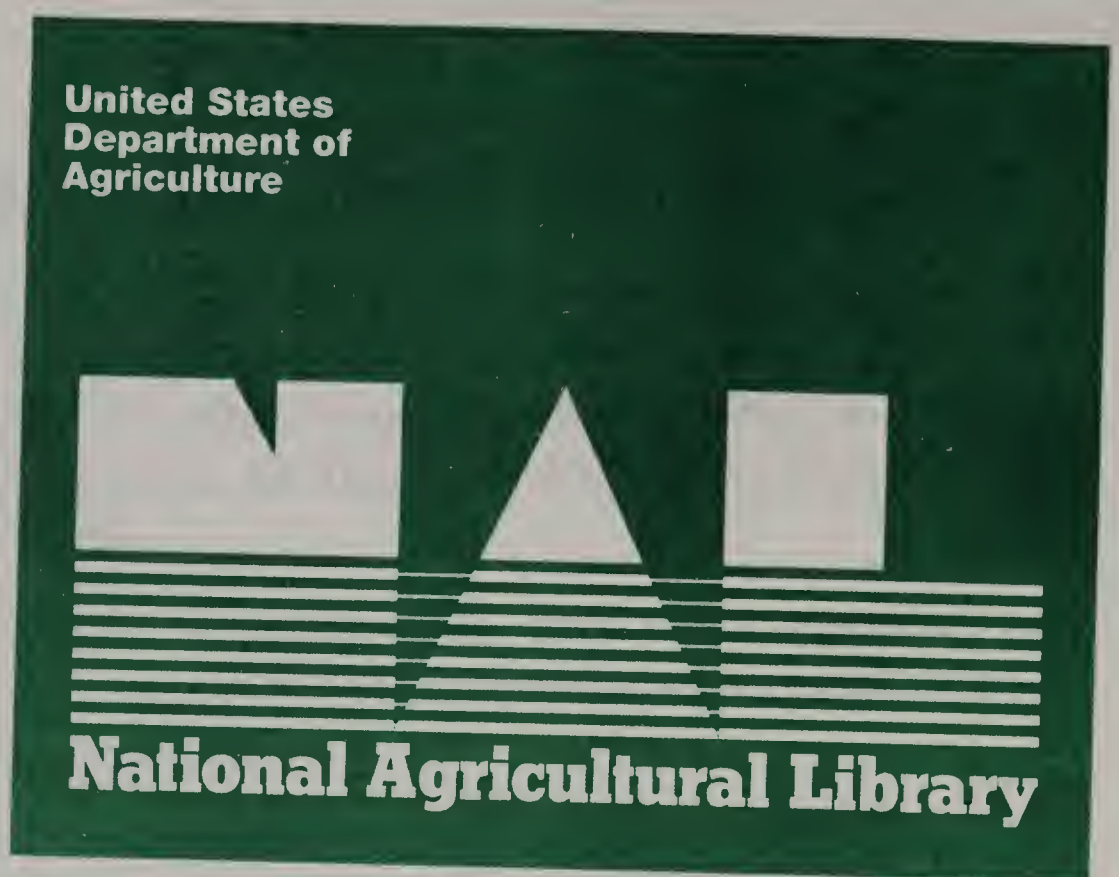
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Cass Job Corps Center---Home of 224 young men on the way up.



## CASS CCC

Cass is one of two conservation centers in Arkansas. It came into existence in 1965 on the site of a CCC Camp of the 1930's and has grown to resemble a small city with 224 enrollees and a staff of 52.

The center is situated 17 miles north of Ozark, AR and lies in a valley surrounded by the beautiful Boston Mountains. The climate is characterized by the four seasons. Summers are fairly warm with most days in July and August well into the 90's. In winter several small snowfalls are enjoyed. Temperatures occasionally dip to zero, but most days see highs in the 30's and 40's. Fall is a colorful time because of the hardwood forests surrounding the center.

Young men, ages 16 to 22, come to Cass to receive vocational training and to advance their education. Most of those who enter will complete the program and over 90% of all graduates are holding jobs today.

Job Corps is a remarkable success, and Cass is Job Corps at its finest.



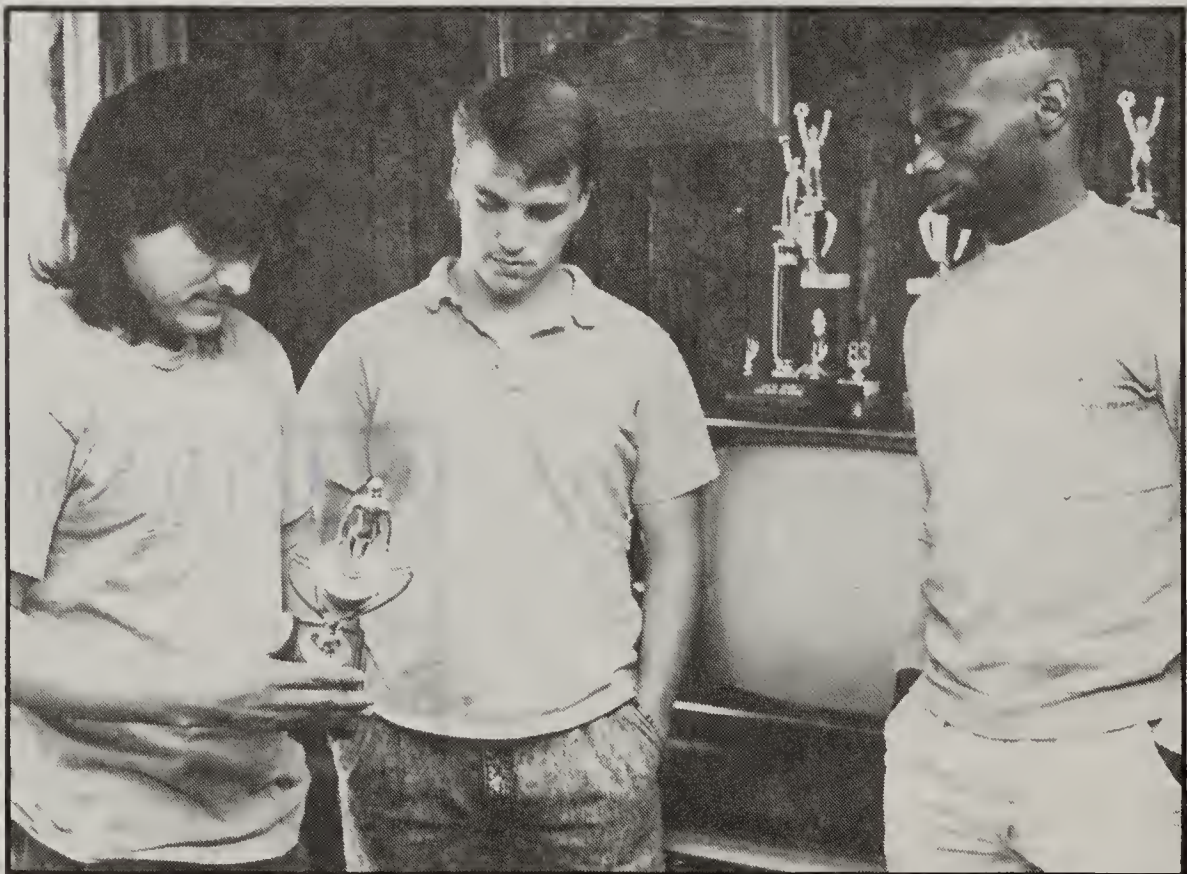


## LIFE ON CENTER

After a week-long orientation program, during which new enrollees explore the vocational offerings, the students begin to settle in to the normal routine.

They arise at 6:00 a.m., do their assigned clean-up job in the dorm, then head for the kitchen for a hardy breakfast. At 8:00 a.m., it's off to education or to their chosen trade. Typically, a student spends one week in education and one week at work. This may vary according to the individuals needs.

After supper students are free to watch TV, write letters or participate in any number of activities available to them. On weekends, students not on pass are offered off-center trips and center activities. No one should ever be bored at Cass.



## VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Cass offers a selection of 9 vocational trades. Instructors are all craftsmen chosen from their field to come to Cass to train young men. Training is by actually doing the job and is as realistic as possible. It takes about 10 to 12 months of training to complete a vocational trade.

During the day the center is a flurry of activity: brick walls are being built, a roof is being constructed, a dorm painted, and a concrete floor is being troweled. All of these jobs and more are going on at one time but what is surprising is that young men who a few months ago were completely untrained, are doing them all.

Once their training is complete, these same young men will go to good paying jobs and begin to make lives for themselves.



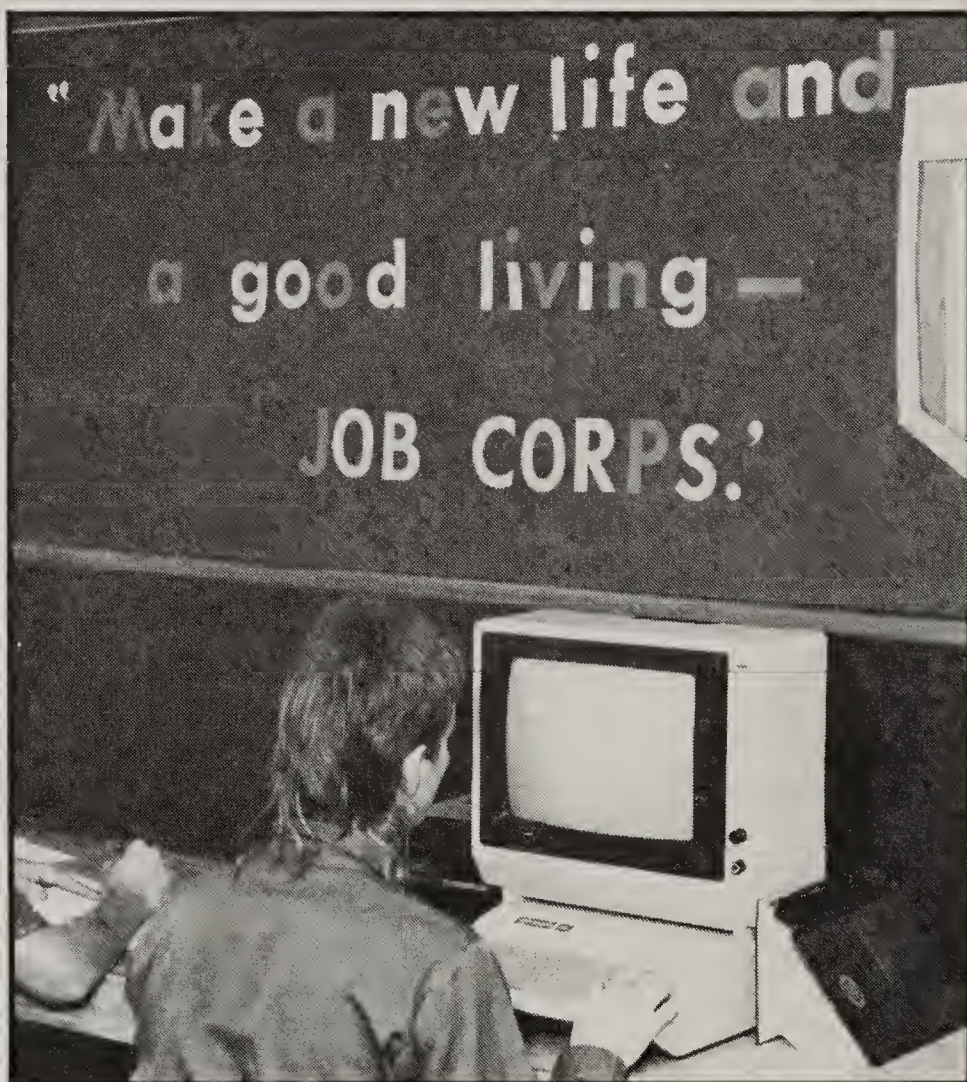
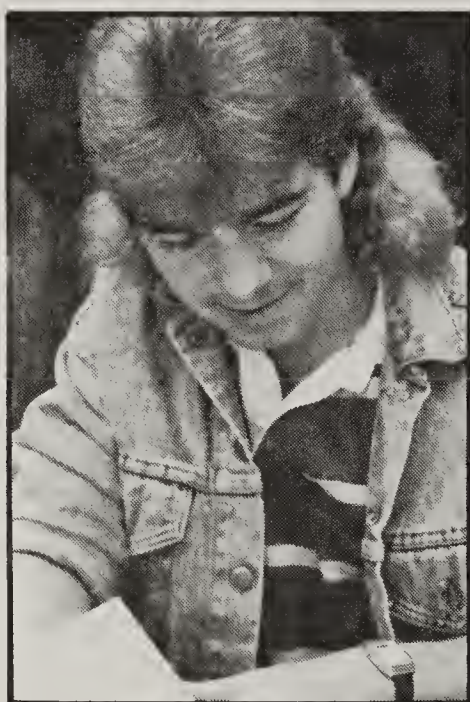


## EDUCATION

The education system used in Job Corps is unique and quite different than most Corpsmembers expect. A new enrollee starts at a level equal to his abilities and climbs the ladder at his own pace. A great many students complete the program and pass the G.E.D. test. A few even go on to college after Job Corps.

Education courses include reading, math, language skills, world of work and even driver's education.

Unlike some public school settings, education at Cass is serious business. Students are older and more businesslike. Fewer distractions and close student-teacher relationships help students move quickly through the program.





## GROUP LIVING

Mastering a trade and possessing a G.E.D. are not enough to survive in today's world. An individual must be able to deal with others in many complex situations; to get along with persons of varied temperaments; respect his superiors; to reach his goals by negotiation with others.

Living in a 56-student dorm, eating with a hundred fellow diners, competing for recognition and cooperating to get assignments done, help a young person learn to get along with others. Prejudices are soon forgotten, feuds are settled, cliques dissolved. Pride replaces prejudice as the trainee works to make his dorm the best. The personality change seen in some corpsmembers is miraculous: as selfishness becomes sharing, arrogance softens to understanding and hostility yield to friendship.

Leadership is also a part of group living and Corpsmembers are allowed to govern themselves. Leadership training is provided and enrollees can become Corpsmember Leaders, Corpsmember Guides, or members of the dorm or student body government.





## LEISURE ACTIVITIES

There is always plenty to do at the center. In the evening you will find Corpsmembers in the dorm writing letters, playing cards or watching TV. You will see them sitting outside the canteen drinking soda and swapping tales. A group will be in the theater watching the re-run of "Smokey and the Bandit" while a dozen or so play pool or lift weights. On the basketball court the Palace Dorm is 4 points ahead of J.F.K. Dorm. On the ball field six blacks, six whites, four Asians, an Hispanic and a Navajo Indian are battling it out in a high-spirited softball game.









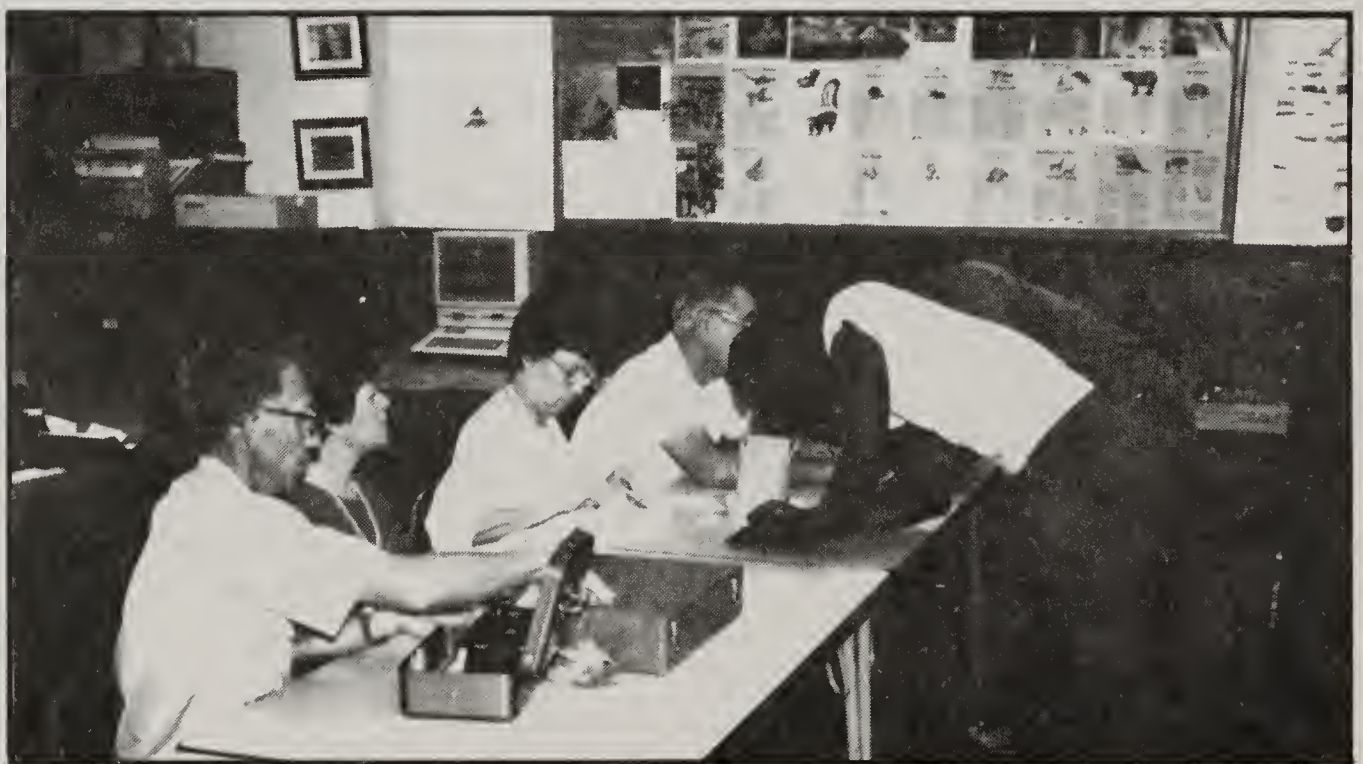
## PASSES AND LEAVES

Nearly everyone wants to visit home once in a while so corpsmembers are allowed to take passes and go on leave periodically. Passes are limited to 2 or 3 days and allow travel up to 175 miles. Leave is accumulated at the rate of 2 days per month and special arrangements to allow enrollees to go home for Christmas are often made and leave can be granted in emergencies.

## LIVING ALLOWANCES

Enrollees receive a small living allowance to provide for purchase of needed items or to save for recreation trips or passes. In addition, an amount of money is set aside to provide corpsmembers a "readjustment allowance" when they go to their jobs.

A separate clothing allowance is provided for corpsmembers to purchase their dress clothes. Work clothes and boots are provided as are bed linens, towels and other necessities.





## **OTHER SERVICES AND INFORMATION**

### **COUNSELING**

Professional counselors are available at all times. They help enrollees with individual problems, guide them toward their goals and provide a bridge between education and vocational training.

### **MEDICAL/DENTAL**

A full line of health services is provided on center in a new medical facility. Services are provided by a full time health technician; a medical doctor on center 2 days a week; a dentist on center one day a week; a mental health consultant on center one day a week.

### **DISCIPLINE**

Like all societies, Cass has its own rules. Most are based on common sense and punishment for violation may include informal reprimand, fines, restriction, extra duty or dismissal. Many corpsmembers spend their entire Job Corps career without violating a single rule.

### **AWARDS**

At a monthly ceremony, outstanding performance by corpsmembers is recognized. Certificates are provided for excellence in education, vocational training and group living.

## WELDING SHOP



## WELDING



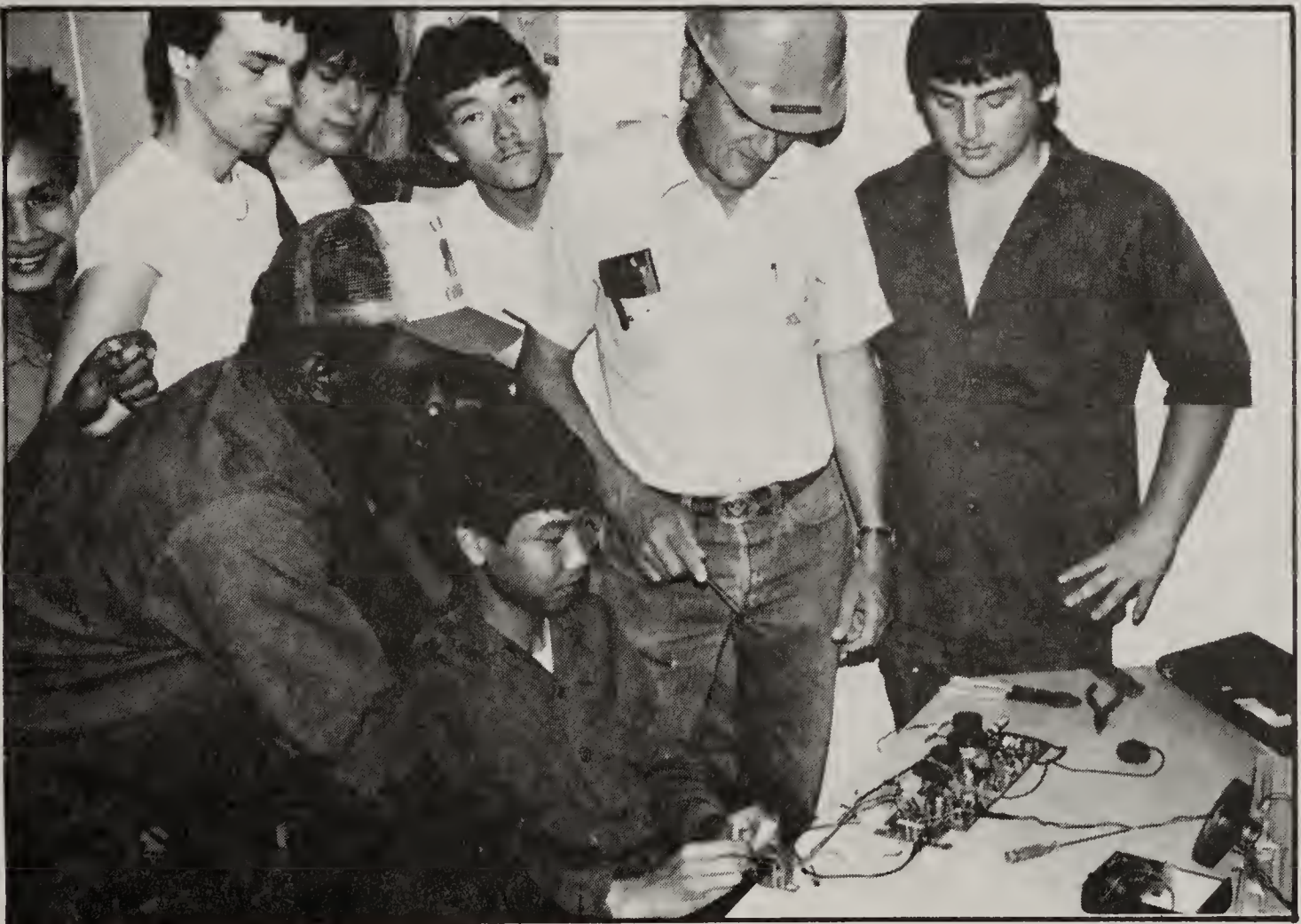
Trainees progress from oxy-actylene to the more difficult types of arc welding. Graduates are able to pass entry tests and secure jobs in shipyards or similar construction work.



## PLUMBING



If it has to do with pipes, the plumbers do it. Graduates can become apprentice plumbers working on the plumbing of new buildings or may work as plumber's helpers on a maintenance crew.



A very technical trade requiring knowledge of codes, circuitry, capacities, etc. Graduates will be qualified apprentices or electrical workers. Some work as maintenance technicians.



## COOKING



Cooking is a creative art and it's man's work. Students learn quantity cooking and secure excellent high-paying jobs. Some graduates work aboard ships or on offshore oil rigs.

## CEMENT MASONRY



Masons mix, pour, and finish concrete. Concrete is used for construction of everything from flower pots to skyscrapers. There is a good future in this trade.



## BRICKLAYING SHOP



## UNION BRICKLAYING



Bricklayers lay block, brick and tile in the construction of homes, commercial and industrial buildings. Training and placement is provided by the International Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen.



## UNION PAINTING



The training provided by the International Brotherhood of Painters includes painting, paper hanging and sheetrock finishing.

## UNION CARPENTRY



The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners trains potential apprentices in the art of carpentry. Graduates enter the union's apprenticeship program.



## HEAVY EQUIPMENT SHOP AND OPERATION



The International Union of Operating Engineers trains corpsmembers to operate backhoes, dozers and scrapers. It's a hard-work trade but many young men find it enjoyable.





# GUIDE FOR NEW ENROLLEES

## **What to Bring:**

- You'll enjoy having your radio and your camera.
- A secure locker is provided but security of your possessions is your responsibility. Bring the clothes you want but remember: your locker space is limited.
- Shot record, if available.
- Driver's Training Certificate, if you have one.
- High School Diploma or GED Certificate.

## **What Not to Bring:**

- Leave obscene literature, knives or any other weapon and drug paraphernalia at home.
- Don't bring too much money or valuable jewelry.

## **What to Expect:**

- Some teasing for a while, but all in fun.
- Help from other Corpsmembers and Staff.
- Early rising.
- Good and plentiful food.
- Rules and dress code.

## **How to Get Off on the Right Foot:**

- Act like a gentleman on the trip to Cass.
- Don't act tough or have a chip on your shoulder.
- Act friendly and you'll find friendship.





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## MESSAGE FROM THE CENTER DIRECTOR

On behalf of all the staff and Corpsmembers here at Cass, I'd like to invite you to come and explore the training opportunities offered at our center.

So many young men, just like yourself, have come here, received their training, then moved on to become productive members of society. You can do it too.

Job Corps will give you an advantage. It will give you a skill you can go out and sell. Most young people do not have this advantage. . .but you will!! It's here. All you have to do is come and get it.

If you're interested, contact your local Employment Security Office.

Sincerely,

ROBERT M. HIGHTOWER  
Center Director



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Persons of any race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or with any handicapping condition are welcome to use and enjoy all facilities, programs, and services of the USDA. Discrimination in any form is strictly against agency policy, and should be reported to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

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